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mary washington college



MWC day care center: a "happy thing"

by Liz Dodge

"People talk about apathy but the involvement, the dedication I've seen here has been phenomenal," said Debbie Mandelker of the newly opened day care center on campus. Nor is this any overstatement, for spearheaded by Mandelker's own dedication, people and organizations all over Fredericksburg have given their support to the center.

Fredericksburg merchants and MWC classes and clubs have given toys and money, Fredericksburg city schools donated desks, Head Start gave some items to the center, and student workers and parents have spent hours setting up the day care center and running it.

And what effect has all this enthusiasm had on the twenty-one children who attend the center? "They love it," says Mandelker, "some of them even cry when they have to leave." Although she is pleased that the children like the center, she explains that "It wouldn't mean a thing if they weren't learning." Happily, it does seem to mean something, at least to some of the children, for Mandelker observed that some parents had reported their children had already picked up new words and phrases. Workers at the day care center also make story books of the things the children tell them "So they can see that things they say can be written down and see how they look."

Located on the lowest floor of Goolrick, in what used to be the lounge leading to the men's locker room, the day care center is a bright clutter of toys and desks. Its location has proven somewhat of a surprise to men making their way between the toys and children to the locker room, but while I was there, any men finding themselves in that position registered as much pleasure as surprise and usually even paused to watch.

As hoped, not only the children, but the students working there as well have learned. Anne Reed, an elementary education major explained "This is my first real teaching experience, prior to this I've only done things like babysitting. It's a very different thing instead of occupying the children, to make them produce." And the children have produced—murals, chalk pictures, plays, puppet shows, music, and parades, to name only a few. Both Reed and Mandelker commented on the children's art, saying that they and other day care volunteers were learning to distinguish between the drawings of the children's art, saying that they and other day care volunteers were learning to distinguish between the drawings of the different age groups as well as the individual children.

One activity I observed was that of the children writing and producing their own play. Costumes were made with a minimum of help from the workers and after a few practices it was deemed such a success that it was videotaped so the children could see themselves. Their delight was obvious, eliciting such comments as three-year-old Candy Byrd's elated cry of "The wolf didn't catch me at all, not a single bit!" and a friend replies "He only caught me once." While I was there the children also learned a new word—"rhythm" which they experimented with on drums, flutes, and xylophones.

Another day care center helper, Betsy Blizzard summed up what she had learned from her experiences with the children as "Just don't loose your cool." Blizzard did criticize the frequent change of helpers at the center, "It must be awfully confusing having more than one teacher, not just the daily turnover, but also not working with them five days a week." She expressed concern that the children might meet with conflicting instructions from the various helpers, but she felt that this was "only a small thing" and overall the day care center was "pretty good."

Psychology professor, Roy Weinstock, who's son attends the center disagreed with Blizzard's criticism saying "The more people a kid sees the better it is for him." Weinstock also feels his son likes the MWC day care center better than the one he was previously attending, partly because there was "more spontaneity." He felt that the all-volunteer staff of the MWC center indicated a "pretty selfless" interest. Although Eric Weinstock, age three, was less specific about his feelings for the center responding to questions about this with a noncommittal "maybe", he did talk about two "best friends" of his at the center, supporting his father's feeling that Eric knows more children at this center.

While Mandelker stressed the importance of educational play, play is not the only feature of the center. "Discipline is necessary" she said, "we make them clean up, we make them put things away . . . and they like it. It is an ordered sort of thing," continued Mandelker, "and its good for them."

Parents often visit the center to read or bring snacks and they have planned a Valentines day party for the children as well. Mandelker hoped that when the weather afforded more outdoor play, some of the parents who work on campus could come and help.

Senate passes revised SA constitution

The Senate has approved last Tuesday, a new Constitution for the Student Association. Students will vote in a referendum to be held Wednesday, February 16, on whether or not they want to adopt the proposed Constitution.

As under the present Constitution students will elect officials to comprise the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial Departments. Except as provided

in the new constitution the powers vested in one department will not be exercised by any other.

The Executive Department will consist of the members of the Executive cabinet which will include the Executive chairman, Legislative chairman, Judicial chairman, Academic Affairs chairman, and Student Association Whip. The SA Whip is a new position whose duty is to be the "representative of special concerns and interests of the student populace to the Executive cabinet."

The Legislative Department will include the student Senate, with the Legislative chairman presiding. The method of election of Senators will remain the same as under the present constitution,

and likewise each senator will represent approximately fifty students. The office of Senator-at-Large has been abolished. The SA Whip will have approximately the same concern, but it will have no legislative power.

The new Constitution establishes six standing Senate committees: Rules and Procedure, Student Organizations and Procedures, Special Projects and Committees, Publicity, Finance, and Student Welfare.

The Judicial Department, to be headed by the Judicial chairman, will remain essentially the same as it is under the present constitution.

It is hoped that the structure of the SA under the proposed constitution will help streamline the student government and so help to avoid needless repetition of functions and duties.

National Affairs chairman Jeanne Rabe believes that the new constitution will "insure a smooth transition to probable future governance, where proposed legislation and student demands of a wide scope are involved in a higher body of academic community members in a joint fashion, taking a lot of the slowness out of going through ever increasing channels . . . I see them (the proposals) as a first step in the right direction—the direction of positive change."

Speaker delves into supernatural

by Renee Miller

Demonology and witchcraft were the subjects of a talk last Wednesday night by Father Nicola, Assistant Director of the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., and a Catholic University professor.

Father Nicola explained that he first became involved with the occult in 1953, when, as a student, he attended a seminar on superstition in a Moral Theology class. Despite warnings concerning the dangers of fascination with the occult, he chose it as the topic for a thesis and later gave a series of lectures at the seminary on the subject.

According to Father Nicola, there are three prejudices that many people may have about the occult. The first is absolute belief in the supernatural, the second, superstition, and the third, scientism carried to a degree where new evidence is not acceptable.

Father Nicola's own belief in the occult is based on faith within the traditional Catholic frame of reference. He said that in the Bible there are 3,000 references to devils or angels, or "personifications of evil". The Fathers of the Church speak of devils and angels as being real.

Father Nicola also spoke of the order of material objects and living things in the world—first there are inanimate objects, then plants, which live and grow, then animals with sense knowledge, and man, who can think and will. Above man is God. But, stated Father Nicola, if man is the link between the animal and spiritual, what is the link between man and God, if not pure spirit? Also, to Father Nicola, the existence of a force of evil in the world is a way to explain the problem of the existence of demons.

Father Nicola cited several documented instances of supernatural occurrences including levitation, demon possession, "haunting" of houses, and miracle healings.

Although he has been involved in many instances of demonology and the occult, Father Nicola has never performed an exorcism, explaining that, like all the occult, it is a very dangerous ritual. He explained some of the dangers as the possibility of the exorcist becoming possessed by the demon and the possibility of the demon revealing damaging information concerning the background of the exorcists involved.

After he had given his presentation, Father Nicola answered questions from the large audience that had come to hear him.

Hygiene sprays medically unsafe

(CPS) Consumer Reports Magazine announced recently it will give its two million readers three words of advice about genital deodorant products: "Don't use them."

The nonprofit magazine's report finds fault with the medical nature of "feminine hygiene sprays," and is highly critical of the premarket clinical testing by the largest maker of such products, Alberto-Culver Co.

Consumer Reports medical consultants say "that widespread advertising of genital sprays may persuade many women with vaginal infections or an unsuspected tumor to put off seeking medical advice while using the sprays instead." They add that soap and water is the most effective and certainly the safest hygiene.

"Current advertising," says the current-issue report "may lead women to apply a female genital deodorant to the delicate mucous membranes of the vagina." And that, says the magazine, "is especially dangerous."

The article quotes Dr. Bernard M. Kaye, a gynecologist and assistant professor at the University of Illinois medical school, as saying "there is an implication of vaginal use in the names of the products and the advertising. Vaginal use is absolutely contraindicated and will lead to irritation from the propellant and/or the ingredients of the product."

The magazine's medical consultants say also that the use of female genital deodorants prior to intercourse is particularly ill-advised, and cite an American Medical Association publication as saying there has been reports of male genital irritation attributable to intercourse with a partner who had just used such a spray.

"There is always a risk involved in spraying chemicals on the body, especially on such sensitive areas as the genitals," says Consumer Reports. It adds that "manufacturers of the product tend to shrug off any possible risk as insignificant."

In discussing premarket testing of genital deodorants, the consumer publication recounts information contained in sworn pretrial testimony by Alberto-Culver in connection with a lawsuit filed by a woman who claims to have been injured by the company's spray product FDS. As set forth in the pretrial testimony, Alberto-Culver said it had a totally adequate premarket test program.

One such test, Alberto-Culver said, "to determine the vaginal irritation potential of FDS on rats," involved spraying FDS on the labia and vagina of 20 female rats for three consecutive days.

Consumer Reports medical consultants described the test as "well-nigh meaningless."

Another Alberto-Culver test reportedly consisted of a six-week patch test on the intact skin of 67 human subjects. However, the article notes, the company's vice president for consumer-product research, is on record as saying any deodorant product should also be tested on abraded skin—a test which the makers of FDS did not claim to have performed.

After noting that genital sprays need not be cleared by the government, the publication of the nonprofit Consumers Union says the industry's insistence that the sprays are cosmetics, not drugs, also means that they are not required to list active ingredients for the sake of people who might know they are allergic or hypersensitive to certain chemicals.

Other people might simply want to avoid cosmetics that contain certain ingredients, such as hexachlorophene, which is known to be an ingredient of several genital deodorants. There is evidence that hexachlorophene may be absorbed into the blood.

Should the Food and Drug Administration not reclassify female genital sprays, an alternative, says Consumer Union, would be for the FDA to use its power to reveal information on the consequences that may result from their use.

"Since Alberto-Culver admits that FDS can cause a 'quite painful' reaction in some women, it would appear appropriate for that information to appear on the label," says Consumers Union.

The article reported that in one of at least two lawsuits filed against the makers of FDS, a woman who used the spray while pregnant alleges that she quickly developed large lumps and had to be admitted to the hospital when the condition became so painful that she had difficulty walking. Her doctor diagnosed the problem as a severe reaction to the FDS spray.

SHORT NEWS

The Fredericksburg College-Community orchestra, which became a reality last fall, is now preparing for its second concert to be presented April 25.

The orchestra which is comprised of students of professors from Mary Washington College and citizens from Fredericksburg, Dahlgren and surrounding areas is conducted by Mr. James Baker of the MWC music department.

For its second concert the orchestra will perform the "Poet and Peasant Overture" by von Suppe, the overture to the "Magic Flute" by Mozart, Symphony in b ("The Unfinished") by Schubert, "Selections from the Sound of Music" by Rogers and Hammerstein, and the Piano Concerto No. 1 in g by Mendelssohn. The piano concerto will feature junior Barbara Taylor. There is no admission charge.

The Ad Hoc Committee of the Academic Affairs Committee of the Student Association recently completed its report on student representation in departments. Any interested students may obtain copies of the report in the reserve room of the library or by contacting Joy Praet, ext. 523.

The Fredericksburg Mental Hygiene Center is presently soliciting materials for a youth center to be constructed in the basement of their office. The center will include provisions for a "trip sitting room" for people on drugs who seek company. The service, to be operated in conjunction with the Hot Line program, needs donations of old blankets, pillows, scraps of rugs or carpets, and old stockings for stuffing pillows. Those willing to donate the above items may deposit them in boxes in all dormitories, in the BULLET office, or by contacting Beaver Brewster or Kathy Nadeau at the Mental Hygiene Center.

"We want our men back"

Afro-American Association
 "You feel good . . . you gon by my Black queen? . . . we can make it together . . . you feel good . . . he be back."

Shirley Williams
 "Hey sisters, isn't that a brother across the street?"
 "Yeah, I think you're right. Let's go talk to him."
 "Hey, wait a minute. He's hugging that white girl."
 "Not again. This has got to stop."

The above conversation is a typical reaction from most Black women when they see a Black man with a white woman. It especially hurts when the Black woman is in the extreme minority (such as the case at MWC). Every time she sees this, it takes something out of her. The first question she asks herself is "why her instead of me?"

The Black woman is well aware that the "so-called" authorities try to claim that she has, in a sense, castrated her man. That she has been a domineering, power-seeking creature who has torn away his masculinity. As a result, she drove him away from her.

Of course, being a Black woman, I know this is not true. All Black people were put in a stereotype. Even today it is hard for whites to accept the fact that we do not fit into this stereotype. Hollywood especially, did its share to keep the Black stereotype alive. You see,

Black women do not always take the ruling hand. If she appeared to be at times, it was only because of the love she had for her man and her children. She would sacrifice anything to keep her family together. Many times this means losing her man: the one companion she needed and loved most.



Some girls at MWC were asked why they dated Black men. The responses varied. The main reason was that it was the current fad to date Black men. And of course, no one wants to be left out of the newest

thing going around. Others stated that they were sincere about dating Black men. To them he was just another guy. While others just wanted to satisfy their curiosity.

Thanks again to the "so-called" authorities and the mass media, another stereotype is revealed. This is the stereotype of the white woman. This stereotype further aids the Black woman in her search to find out why she has lost her man. In the past, and even today, the only true form of womanhood and femininity was the white woman. The Black man was constantly exposed to the only "true woman" on bill-boards, in magazines, and on television. Naturally he is going to be curious about what he is constantly exposed to.

In an attempt to get her man back, the Black woman tries to imitate the white woman. She bleaches her skin, presses her hair, and makes it her daily task to act as white as possible. Finally the Black woman comes to realize that she is wasting her time trying to be something that she is not. No longer does she want to be like the white woman in order to get her man back. In order for him to accept her as a Black woman, and not a poor imitation of the white woman, she must show him her natural self.

No longer is ashamed of her kinky hair or her dark complexion. She is very proud of these features because these are the things that make her different from the white woman. The things that make her a beautiful woman in the eyes of her man. Most important, the Black woman accepted herself as a woman who needed and wanted the love that only a Black man could give her.

When he comes back to her, she will accept him longingly and lovingly. Until then . . . she waits.

by Carol Shwend

* Children's stories need not be confined to Kiddie Lit classes. We can all appreciate them. I would like to share with you readers some marvelous stories about children and also about adults who make even better stories.

Once upon a time, there was a children's camp situated about fifty miles from a big city. Parents sent their children to this special place knowing that their kiddies were well protected, for the camp had many fine counsellors of the old school style. It was comforting for the parents to know that those counsellors, who had devoted their lives to children were there.

This camp had almost 200 counsellors (from junior on up . . .), but I would like to introduce you to just a few of them . . .

Snow White was the camp director. He loved all his children, for children in his eyes never grow up. Snow White directed all activities at camp for he felt his responsibilities deeply, so deeply that acting was practically impossible. But Snow White had a fine camp organization, ready for any action that he might direct.

You may well be wondering why Snow White needed other people if he was the sole director. Actually Snow White had a set of rules, (he called them principles) and he kept them pure and unblemished. These rules were to protect his children from the harm of knowledge. But, alas alack, children learn anyway, so Snow White had six head counsellors to help him enforce the rules.

Prince Charming is a complex character in our story. He spent half of his time courting Snow White and the other half holding court and being his charming self. All Prince Charming wanted was to be like Snow White. Snow White was very kind to the Prince, letting the Prince do most of the talking. Of course, some people have said that Snow White had nothing to say but I think that he was just modest.

snow white and his seven dwarfs

Obviously, Prince Charming was a very busy man and courting took so much of his time that he convinced Snow White to befriend some dwarfs to help with the work around the camp.

It is customary for a story like this to have seven dwarfs. And sure enough there were seven, Grumpy, Dopey, Bashful, Doc, Sneezie, Happy, and Sleepy. Dwarfs in children's stories are usually nice characters but obviously their shortened status effected them. Each of the dwarfs was very jealous of his own job, convinced that no one else knew as much or could do as well. But we should remember that perspective is difficult when you can't even see over the table.

Grumpy had a very campy personality, he never wanted anyone to realize how superior he really was. He planned all the programs designed to prevent the children from ever attaining knowledge. (He obviously had a creative mind.) But then, Grumpy was a special dwarf, he was taller than average.

Dopey had a cheerful personality, he liked his job because he could be near Snow White. Actually Dopey worked very closely with the director, he never did, said or looked anything until after Snow White had given a signal. Dopey became more and more like a stunted Snow White. Every morning while shaving he was heard to say, "Mirror, mirror on the wall, don't I look more like Snow White all the time?"

Doc had a kindly personality. He tucked the children into their bunks and turned the lights out. (This was an important camp job—it's difficult to find your way in the dark.) He also arranged much of the camp personnel—remember the junior counsellors? Doc was a lucky dwarf, he didn't have to stay cooped (or should I say dwarfed) up with the other head counsellors.

Sneezie had a stilted personality although I guess that's natural with puppets. One often saw Snow White holding the strings with Sneezie on his lap. (Sneezie was a very short dwarf.) Sneezie wrote everything Snow White wanted, he helped keep the unblemished reputation in the camp press. (The parents were very grateful.)

Bashful had a controlling personality. He controlled the physical (should I have said fiscal?) aspects of the camp. He was very athletic. Just a country dwarf at heart, his bashfulness was appealing. But with the other dwarfs, it came appealing off.

There is even more to tell but it's almost lights out time at camp, and although Charming is a prince among men, he's a tyrant among children. Yes, I am but one of you, enjoying a lovely time at camp. Stories are so much fun to tell, we'll have to get together soon—maybe next week I can hide under the covers and with my flashlight and with my pen, I can tell you another wonderful story about life at camp.



On pens and swords

To the Honorable Delegates of the Virginia General Assembly:

The recent bill introduced by Del. Benjamin Woodbridge (House bill 474) and referred to the committee of which you are a member, has provoked much attention and concern from members of the Virginia student press.

As you know, this bill, if passed, would deprive all student newspapers and periodicals of state-supported institutions funding from student activity fees. It would also make student publications dependent on the state legislature's favor in order to receive any allocations.

I feel that the majority of student journalists share my feelings that this bill represents the most potentially dangerous and oppressive threat ever levelled at the student media.

The implication of censorship which this bill carries is thinly veiled. To make a newspaper dependent on funding from a state body, insures that that newspaper either become a political mouthpiece or that it cease to exist. Control of the student press should in no way be the concern of a state legislature.

Student newspapers are supported financially and morally by the students of their respective institutions. It is the responsibility of those students to change, to approve, to control, or to shut down those newspapers. To censor the student media, the Virginia legislature would be committing a much graver offense, in denying every student the responsibility to think and act for themselves.

Student newspapers are forums for student opinion and student interest. To regulate one, is to attempt to regulate the other. Both should be politically sacred.

Equally serious is the generally held feeling that this bill is directed at one or two politically unpopular of the Virginia student press. Over the past three years, Del. Woodbridge has attacked the Mary Washington College student newspaper, the BULLET, as immoral, Communist, and obscene. With the appearance of this bill, one cannot help believing that Del. Woodbridge would risk the existence of every student newspaper in the state of Virginia merely as a personal vendetta against the BULLET. For three years we have considered this step as an absurd impossibility. Now we consider it to be a frightening reality.

I maintain, gentlemen and women, that the introduction of this bill is a one man witch hunt and not deserving of your time or consideration. An act such as this is nothing more than MacCarthyism.

Thomas Jefferson once said that if he had to choose between a government without newspapers or newspapers without government, he would choose the latter. I ask that you choose both.

Sincerely yours,

Linda Cayton

Linda Cayton
Editor

BULLET
Mary Washington College

Reader disputes editorial

To the Editor:

To the point of utter absurdity and obnoxiousness, young people in today's society too often seek to assert their independence and proclaim their rights as individuals without recognizing the fact that they are a part of a system, reliant upon the other members. The editorial in the Jan. 31 issue of the BULLET is a prime example of this radical self-centeredness.

It is quite apparent that MWC has ample room for improvement, and, in agreement with the editor, it is the students who must initiate change in making this a place to live instead of a place to exist. However, the choice of schools is strictly a matter of individual discretion, and those who choose, to come to MWC must accept the fact that although the academic atmosphere is extremely good, there are certain limitations at a small state-supported women's college that do not exist in larger institutions or in a co-educational environment.

Labeled as "token liberalism," the many social and academic changes that have occurred here is the last five years are indicative of the fact that students and administration are working together with a true progressiveness of attitude to adapt MWC to the needs of a new breed of student. Yet, in an extreme personal affront to all concerned, the editor tells us that we are "stuck in 50 years of history," that our minds are still wearing hoop skirts," that we are "academic and social bastards."

Supposedly, our problems result from the "prostitution" of ourselves "To the town of Fredericksburg, to the Virginia legislature, to the administration, and to our parents." The fact is ignored that MWC, as a state school, and its students are financially dependent upon these sources and are therefore obligated to fulfill certain qualifications and uphold certain standards. In truth, we as students have assumed a subordinate role, admitting that mentally and socially we are insufficiently prepared to attain our individual goals.

Although we are reaping the benefits of the knowledge and finances of others, the editor feels that "no one is going to give us anything." Each of us has an opportunity to choose a lifestyle, to expand mentally and socially, to build a better future, to become productive and worthwhile citizens. If we only accept what is offered, seeking reasonable changes through the system that supports us, then students have everything to gain. There is nothing to lose because, as individuals, we have contributed so little. We are all at MWC by choice, free to leave at any time and for any reason. The only "academic and social bastards" that exist here are those students who are incapable of admitting their own inadequacies and irresponsibility as subordinates within an ordered system.

Carolyn Carter

Pryor/Harris bill

To the Editor:

It is hardly melodramatic to state that the 11th hour has arrived, not only for the few remaining sea mammals—the whales, dolphins, porpoise, walrus, polar bear, sea lions, manatees, and others—but also for thousands of Americans who have expended so much time and effort to support the Harris-Pryor Ocean Mammal Protection Act (S2579—H.R. 10589).

This bill would prohibit the killing of ocean mammals and the importation into the United States of products of these animals, except for non-wasteful native hunting.

Man's selfish financial profit is not justification for the continuing useless, brutal clubbing of seals or the slaughter of other ocean manals.

Your readers are earnestly urged to write their legislators in support of the Harris-Pryor bill and to Senator Ernest Hollings or myself for

immediate hearings on that bill. It offers the only protection for animals which have no voice other than our own for their survival.

K.D. Scott
U.S. Merchant Marine
1602 Key Blvd.
Arlington, Va.
22209

Student scores pest problem

To the Editor:

The roach and bug problems at Mary Washington College have gone too far. Roaches and other varieties of bugs and insects are showing up any and everywhere presenting a frankly nauseating aspect of college life.

The old jokes about squirting roaches down with a half can of hairspray or threatening along with your friends to mail one to the college dean are no longer funny. During the past few weeks alone many unhealthy and unpleasant incidents have occurred involving roaches. Many of us have learned to accept to watch out for roaches when we are in a dorm basement or around garbage. We have also accepted the fact that any food in our rooms should be well covered and that our rooms must be regularly kept as clean as possible.

But is there any excuse for one of my friends finding a roach (well cooked but definitely roach) in her stuffed pork chop in the school cafeteria? Is there any excuse for roaches and other bugs being in the bathrooms and constantly in bathtubs? Students are finding roaches inside and on their clothes from the closets and drawers. Students are waking up in the mornings with roaches on their arms or in their beds (and who knows where else they've been). I don't consider myself a normally, squeamish girl, when I discovered a 2½ inch reddish-brown roach with antennae and the works on the inside of my shower curtain it was more than I could stomach.

It seems ridiculous that a college with academic ratings, a college which tries to set standards of honor, character, and academic learning, would have such a problem as this. The living conditions are almost like slum conditions and most of the girls here just weren't brought up in that sort of environment. Most of us were brought up not to accept such living conditions and to try to correct them wherever they did exist. I have no direct answer to what should be done to correct this problem and certainly don't consider it my responsibility to know. The point is, something should have or should soon be done.

There are many problems on the Mary Washington campus right now which have not been solved. Many of these problems are blamed on the fact that there is lack of student interest or support; problems such as the non-existence of any sort of social-recreation center and the administration's lack of interest in social activities in general, the non-existence of washing machines and dryers that work, and the non-existence of accommodations for men, including telephone and even toilet facilities for men on many occasions.

These facilities (or lack of facilities) are things that are included by many colleges as essential for normal college maintenance and use. I have personally visited or heard of few colleges in Va. along with facilities (social and practical) any worse than these. It should not be a matter of gaining student support and drawing up petitions for these various problems. Many of these things our administration should have taken for granted as essential to normal living conditions and academic as well as social growth.

I have been able to swallow Mary Washington's problems so far, but the problems are now on a level as low as roaches. I don't understand how the people who are responsible for our college's maintenance and problems can watch Mary Washington's good reputation so surely diminish. Many freshman and others are decidedly transferring and many who are remaining are disappointed, depressed, and pessimistically aware of these and other problems. In the following years some of us who have stayed on will try to improve conditions (an almost impossible process for students without administrative or faculty support.)

Others of us will just be too busy studying and involving ourselves in other meaningful learning activities to bother beating our heads against the wall for college improvements. I thought we were here to learn—not to fight disintegrating college maintenance and lack of genuine interest on the part of the administration for concitions of our college life.

Betsy Lloyd

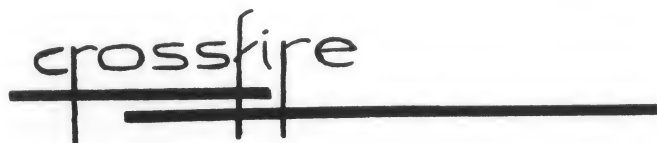
Readers endorse Bullet stand

To the Editor:

We are now freshmen at MWC but will not attend this school next year for various reasons. One major reason for our decision is that this school is too far behind the times concerning, among other things, course offerings, visitation hours and social activities. Many changes could be made but the general feeling of apathy is too strong among the majority of the students. We, too, are apathetic

about Mary Washington and are counting the days until we are out of here. However, we feel that we cannot remain silent concerning the BULLET's editors involvement in the lawsuit challenging the Virginia statute sec. 18.1-63. We are 100 per cent behind you. Forbidding advertisements or publications concerning abortions is as ridiculous as forbidding advertising concerning contraceptive foam and family planning. Since abortions are, in fact, legal, how can it be that some could challenge one's right to advertise the mere obtaining of information about them? We also feel that the recent bill presented by Woodbridge to the Virginia state legislature stems from the fact that he and other officials don't agree with the BULLET publishing information concerning abortions and the use of so-called obscene language. Therefore they resent the fact that state funds are going into state supported school newspapers that don't agree with what they believe morally or otherwise. Let them close down our presses for truly it would be better to have no outward voice at all than one which would be dictated, censored and FALSE. We sincerely hope that you win the case and are anxious to give whatever aid we can to this cause.

Pat Nockett
Cynthia Shortman
page



Self-centeredness denies support

by Brooke Blanchard
Dotty Crowley
Rosemary D'Adamo
Cathy Davis
Maggi Pavlouski

From our personal experience we have found the atmosphere at Mary Washington lacking in enthusiasm, responsibility, and awareness. It is possible that we expect too much from Mary Washington students, or that we are too idealistic—but without some reality on this campus how can we be anything but idealistic? Yet, our "idealism" is not within the range of many of the students i.e., blind dates, fraternity parties, trips to The River. It is obvious that we have to look beyond circumstances and situations that affect us directly. Is college an institution to help us develop an awareness of life, or is it a social circus to help us acquire a marital state? Are we content in planning to continue in a selfish vein? It is possible that we are trying to shelter ourselves from a world outside that is too ugly to face? It is so easy to wrap oneself up in one's own world and disregard others. Maybe by overlooking harsh realities they will disappear. Or will they?

We are supposedly a promised generation which will develop a better world. Why can't we develop ourselves to be individuals who care for those who do not have the opportunities we have? In a college which seems to offer so much freedom to develop oneself to her (his) fullest capacity, one would think that in return we could strive to give others as nominal a thing as something to eat.

Our main concern was with Bangla Desh, a newly formed nation. Because it is a war ravaged country, it is suffering from starvation and an outbreak of disease. While stuffing ourselves with unnecessary food we found it ironic that we were listening to the recording of the Bangla Desh Concert. We sensed the significance of this problem and the necessity to act, or at least to make others aware to the Bangla dilemma. We were incredibly enthusiastic (for the first time this year, thinking we had found a cause of extreme importance to everyone.

As members of the freshman class, we recognized the opportunities of replacing the freshman weekend with a benefit concert for Bangla Desh. We therefore, proposed to abolish the weekend and replace it with a concert in which all proceeds would go to the United Nations Children's Fund for the starving children of Bangla Desh. We hoped to make this a concentrated effort of the freshman class in which we could bring together the entire campus and the Fredericksburg community. We intended to get money from the concert as well as private donations from citizens within the community.

In order to do this a petition was required of 51 per cent of the freshman class, to call for an immediate referendum concerning the weekend. In circulating the petition we found that our cause was completely lost. Many people did not want the social affair to be abolished and were concerned about who would play and what the price of tickets would be. Of those who did sign there were many ulterior motives, i.e., they would not need a date, or just wanted the weekend dissolved. We found a handful of individuals who were as enthusiastic about it as we were, but then what can a handful do? Due to lack of support, freshman apathy, and the afore mentioned reasons, the petition was abandoned.

Later we were told by freshman representatives that we could have both the weekend and as a secondary project the benefit concert, thereby emphasizing the weekend and placing a minimal value upon the concert. We did not believe that one organization could handle two major projects in such a short span of time.

We do not want to condemn anyone for desiring any type of social function on our campus for we feel Mary Washington is definitely lacking in social life, but that need not that the concert would not be a social, as well as a beneficial function. Yet, we believe there are times when one can replace one project for another which is more worthy.

Maybe we went through the wrong channels in trying to present this issue. We now realize that the freshman weekend is of major importance to the class. We do need our social function. For, what does it matter what happens to another nation? It's not ours after all.

The Beginnings of a community

This "happy thing" Debbie Mandelker has started in the form of the campus day care center has triggered such an uncharacteristic wave of response at Mary Washington College that it is interesting to consider the elements at work in this unusual success story.

What makes 35 out of a promised 40 students trudge to Goolrick on a rainy Friday afternoon, many bringing along dates and boyfriends to make toys and materials for the center? What aspect of this center has spurred clubs and classes to give money and toys? And, reaching outside the college, how has it toched such a responsive chord in Fredericksburg businessmen, schools, and other city organizations which have given toys, money, desks, and many other needed materials?

Unlike some organizations at MWC which continue only out of tradition, the new day care center has a definite purpose. There is no groping for relevancy or reasons to exist, the challenge at the day care center is not what to do, but how best to do it and to these ends an amazing number of students have contributed their time and creative thought.

The day care center also has the appealing quality of unselfishness. No one works on the center for the glory of it, for no room is afforded for reveling in self-importance. What is important there is not what one is, but what one has to give.

It only took one person with a plan and a positive attitude, who saw a need and a chance to help other people. Too often such people, if they are listened to at all, are met with criticism and scorn, particularly if their ideas tread on the sacred toes of tradition. Many potential Mandelkers have been killed in the name of upholding the honorable past of Mary Washington College.

Unlike the day care center, most student plans cannot feature cuddly children to help, but many of them such as the movement afoot in the freshman class to help the poor in Bangla Desh deal with very urgent issues and others, like Jack Flynn's honor system proposals even involve the students and the future of MWC itself.

Mandelker has done much to allay suspicions that MWC students are too self-centered and apathetic to care about anything but their own important individual selves. Now let's open our eyes to other issues and smash these suspicions altogether.

L.D.

the bullet

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students seek security of past

by Ted Friedman/AFS

There seems to be a theory loose in the land about a return on campus to the (silent) fifties. While news of this trend first appeared in a recent page one story in the NEW YORK TIMES, anyone could have seen it coming long ago.

First came the popularity of all those corny love-story-type movies; then soft, acoustical guitar music won out in popularity over blaring acid rock, and the lyrics became embarrassingly romantic, some would say mawkish. Concurrently, there was a wave of nostalgia which encompassed the fifties and included more than a passing interest in such fifties phenomena as Bill Haley and the Comets.

Next, lots of people started wearing sneakers, which were the number one footwear in the fifties, some in combination with corduroy sportcoats, a dead giveaway. The sneakers aroused a lot of suspicions about a return to the fifties.

The rest of the theory about a return to the fifties revolves mainly around historical and economic comparisons. The forties, the theory goes, produced a generation in the fifties which felt the need for respite from years of war and personal displacement; and we are seeing the same thing in the seventies, produced by the sixties.

The lagging economy contributes to the picture by freaking out students who fear they won't get a job, so they have to bear down and study hard, thinking—rightly or wrongly—that this will help them land a gig. (Students in the fifties were bearing down for more or less the same reasons.)

Since students have to study harder to get a job, they also need to relax harder, which means—as most students understand it—getting loaded one way or another. But the pressure to blow grass is no longer as strong as it used to be, according to the fifties theorists, so it's no longer necessary to do dope (as if there were no reasons other than social pressure), and students are returning to their number one love, anyway—the juices. Because they're juicing, they're compared to students of the fifties.

So much for the theory. Now for the evidence. A sophomore at Brandeis University named Josh Peckler, of Massapequa, Long Island, observes, "It seems like a return to the nineteen-fifties." That's not all he says, but let's stop here a minute and examine his amazing statement. Being a typical sophomore, Peckler was born in 1952. Well, he missed the first two years of the decade about which he is commenting, but never mind, he was a wizened seven-year-old by 1959. Once you realize this about Peckler's precociousness, the rest of his observations should take on more authority.

"There's more booze," Peckler continues, "more nice clothes, the music is become less radical and

softer—Carole King and James Taylor—and people seem to be getting into their middle-class shells and not worrying about the future."

Peckler stops short of saying whether this situation is good or bad, but a fellow sophomore, by the name of Susan Giavaris, is less restrained. In what may well go down in cultural history as the birth of the "new hip," Giavaris gushes, "Socially speaking, Brandeis is coming together, which is incredible. It's getting straight, baby. There's a whole new influx of skirts and sweaters. It's an incredible freak-out. All of a sudden this summer I went out and bought dresses. Why? I felt like feeling good."

Now Giavaris' observations raise more questions than they answer. What does she mean by 'straight'? What does she mean by 'baby'? How would she define feeling good? But suffice not to say that she has a well-developed sense of irony and that when she says straight, she really means hip—a new kind of hip.

What all this comes down to is the seemingly-confusing notion that what used to be considered straight is now hip, and vice versa. Now clearly this sort of standard is going to catch a lot of people up short, namely all the people who thought they were hip. But for all the people who considered themselves hopelessly straight, it should prove a stroke of good fortune. In fact, unlike

Following are further examples of the new ultra-hip. The names of students and their colleges are suppressed to spare both of them any embarrassment. You've got to understand that these people don't know yet that they're ultra-hip.

—At a small college in Ohio, a student complained, "I have been disturbed by the amount of hostility I sense between the guys and the girls. Not only are we separated physically on opposite ends of the car pus, but there seems to be psychological separation as well. Girls complain that they don't get dates and then go to meals with their security blanket of 20 other girls. Guys complain that there aren't enough tough girls on campus and go out and get potted. I feel that the raids (panty, etc.) that have gone on are an expression of the frustration that results from this segregation."

—At a small college in Rhode Island, a student says, "The big issue on our campus today is that of whether or not the students feel there is need for a pet if only to relieve. There are many cases in which keeping a pet has stimulated the student."

—At a college in Washington State, students celebrated homecoming with a Volkswagen stuffing contest, pie-eating contests, bed race, Pep Rally and bonfire. Greek weekend at a Maine college began with a smoker and ended with an all-Greek keg party. At an Illinois school, homecoming was



Giavaris, who had to run out and buy skirts and dresses to make the scene, some of these people—by virtue of never having been anything else than what they are—will be ultra hip; or, to borrow a phrase from the late fifties, so far out they're in.

For example, three years ago, the student government at a small college in Kentucky circulated a petition denouncing the school's liberal administration for pressuring students to "do our own thing." Said the students, "We don't know what our own thing is, but even if we did, we doubt that we'd be able to do it." I mean, can you imagine how hip, ultra-hip, those people would be today?

celebrated with a tug of war and a three-legged race. Sigma Nu, however, didn't have a Homecoming Queen entry because they mistakenly entered a sophomore when the rules required either a junior or a senior.

—At a New Jersey school, a fraternity and sorority paired up to present their first annual Las Vegas Party; and an Iowa school held an after game dance entitled, "Hot Pants Nite." The same school had a successful hay ride, Nov. 6.

Now that all these people have finally arrived, there is the danger that, in their headlong rush towards progress, they will catch up with everyone else just in time to be straight—again!

'Every woman's right'

To the Editor:

How can one express a logical reply to Thomas Johnson's "Metaphysical Approach to Abortion," in which his argument is tempered with male subjectivity? He has not maintained a complete metaphysical or scientific level in his article, but rather has allowed his personal conjectures and select vocabulary to emotionalize his attempt to prove why abortion is "wrong," both morally and legally.

Since Johnson did not define his frequently used term "human," we have taken it upon ourselves to assume that the embryo is a developing human, not a complete being until birth. It seems, from what we derived from Johnson's article, that the separate units, sperm and egg, do indeed also have the potential for becoming a complete being. And, that he would necessarily find all means of birth control in violation of the "right" for the free-agent life to develop.

Abortion is not a logical issue—we make no claim that our reply is scientific or even metaphysical. We are considering abortion as a moral issue, and realizing that morality is not logical. There can be no concept of a universal "right" or "wrong." Therefore we contend that morality is relative to the situation. The

woman, as a self-determining individual, should be allowed the right to determine her own moral code. The law should not predetermine this morality, but instead allow her the decision as to whether abortion is right or wrong.

From a subjective female point of view: we would hope that our future children will have the chance to grow up as individuals; not in a society where they will be simply a segment of the masses, in an overpopulated world. Population control is the only hope of achieving this. We do not advocate abortion as the best form of birth control. However, until the population has been educated as to the available means of contraception, it is an effective and relatively safe alternative. Johnson has concluded that such an alternative is destructive of the right of the individual. We see it as a hope for individuality.

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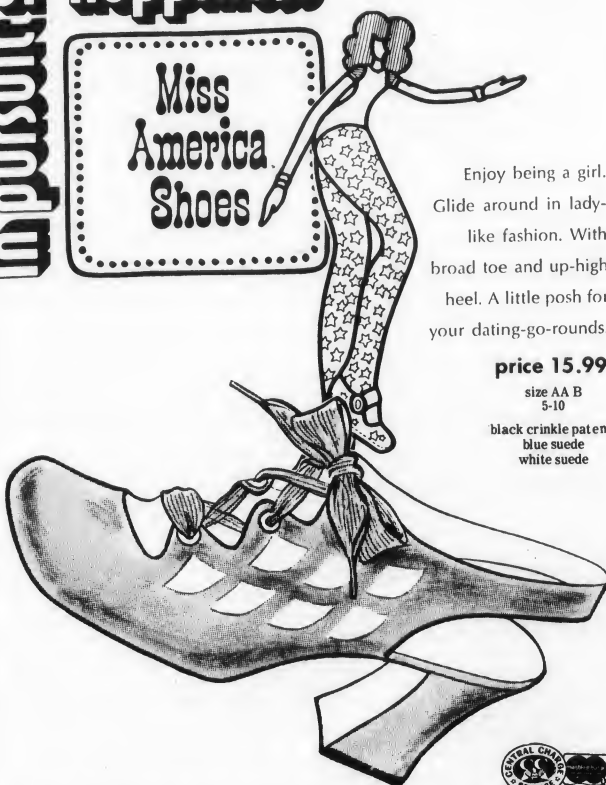
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